

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Ann Piechowski,

Civil Action No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff,

v.

National Asset Management, LLC; and  
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

**COMPLAINT**

Defendants.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Ann Piechowski, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

1. This action arises out of the Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of the Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

**PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, Ann Piechowski ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Lewiston, New York, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. The Defendant, National Asset Management, LLC ("National"), is a Pennsylvania

business entity with an address of 400 Rouser Road, Suite 202, Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

6. Does 1-10 (the “Collectors”) are individual collectors employed by National and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. National at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

#### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

##### **A. The Debt**

8. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation in the approximate amount of \$132.00 (the “Debt”) to Quest Diagnostics (the “Creditor”).

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to National for collection, or National was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

##### **B. National Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics**

12. In January, 2012, National contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

13. National failed to meaningfully identify itself to Plaintiff.

14. Plaintiff informed National that she had paid the Debt off around June, 2011.

15. Nonetheless, between January, 2012, and March, 2012, National placed up to five calls to Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

16. In March, 2012, National confirmed that Plaintiff did not in fact owe the Debt and ceased collection calls.

17. However, in July, 2012, National resumed placing calls to Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

18. National called Plaintiff's place of employment after Plaintiff had informed National that personal calls were not permitted at Plaintiff's workplace.

19. National failed to inform Plaintiff of her rights under the state and federal laws by written correspondence within 5 days after the initial communication, including the right to dispute the Debt.

#### **C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages**

20. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

21. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

#### **COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA - 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.**

22. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(3) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at his place of employment, knowing that the Plaintiff's employer

prohibited such communications.

24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(6) in that Defendants placed calls to the Plaintiff without disclosing the identity of the debt collection agency.

27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) in that Defendants misrepresented the character, amount and legal status of the Debt.

28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.

29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a) in that Defendants failed to send Plaintiff an initial letter within five days of its initial contact with Plaintiff as required by law.

30. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

31. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

**COUNT II**  
**VIOLATIONS OF NEW YORK GBL § 349**  
**ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ACTS**

32. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.

33. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants and complained of herein constitute "deceptive acts and practices" within the meaning of Article 22A of the General Business Law of the State of New York, NY GBL § 349.

34. The Defendants willfully and knowingly engaged in conduct constituting deceptive acts and practices in violation of NY GBL§ 349.

35. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the foregoing acts and practices, including damages associated with, among other things, humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment caused by the Defendants.

36. By virtue of the foregoing, the Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages, trebled, together with reasonable attorneys' fees.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be awarded in the Plaintiff's favor and against the Defendants as follows:

1. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
2. Against each of the named the Defendants, awarding the Plaintiff statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A);
3. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff actual damages, trebled, pursuant to NY GBL § 349;
4. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff recovery of the costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3);

5. Against the named the Defendants, jointly and severally, awarding the Plaintiff punitive damages in such amount as is found appropriate; and
6. Granting the Plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS**

Dated: July 17, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

By

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